(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken to see that the funds sanctioned for AIDS programmes are utilised effectively only for the purpose only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) An agreement between Government of India and International Development Agency was signed in September, 1992 and a credit of US Dollar 84 million (Rs. 222.6 crores) was committed for implementing the scheme aimed at Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS in India. The IDA credit is provided as disbursement of approximately 84% of expenditure incurred under the programme. The total expenditure as on 31.3.97 is Rs. 275.22 crores. However since the US Dollar has appreciated against INR the disbursement so far received is US Dollar 46.27 million.

(c) and (d) The funds alloted for the implementation of the scheme to the States/UTs are non-divertible.

(e) Funds are released to the State AIDS Cells on the basis of action plans submitted by them for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. The effective utilisation of funds is ensured by insisting adherance to the implementation of the programme as per scheme approved by National AIDS Control Organisation. Implementation is monitored by Health Departments of the concerned State Governments as well as by the National AIDS Control Organisation. The expenditure incurred by the States/UTs is audited by the Comptroller and Audit or General of India.

Damage Caused by free Radical Oxygen Molecules to Human Body

3265. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the latest research in free Radical Oxygen Molecules causing cell damage in the human body;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith remedy;

(c) in what way Government come to know about 'anti-oxidants'; and

(d) what steps are being taken to educate the public about free radical damage and the anti-oxidant preventive treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, There is considerable research interest both in India and abroad, on free radical oxygen molecules generated in the body during physiological and pathological processes resulting in cell damage, ageing and various diseases such as cancer, cataract, diabetes mellitus, heart diseases, lever toxicity, etc.

Nutrient supply in the diet such as Vitamins A, C, E and Selenium and non-nutrient components such as phytochemicals are effective in protecting the body against free radical damage. These are called antioxidants. Several antioxidant fomulations are also marketed in the country by certain pharmaceutical industries.

(d) Consumption of plenty of yellow and green vegetables and fruits containing antioxident nutrients' such as Vitamin E, beta carotene and Vitamin C etc. is encouraged as part of the nutrition Education Programme.